

003259.00016

PATENT

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13, 15-27, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 40 are allowed. Claims 14, 31 and 34 also are allowed in view of Examiner Tucker's withdrawal of the rejection of those claims as discussed below. Claims 28-30, 36 and 38 are cancelled. Accordingly, all claims in the application are allowed and the application is now in condition to be passed to issue.

II. Telephonic Interview

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner tucker for his courtesy and cooperation in the course of a telephone interview on March 10, and March 14, 2005. In the course of the interview the remaining claim rejections were discussed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's withdrawal of the enablement rejection. The claims rejected over Fan et al., are cancelled above. In that regard, as discussed during the telephonic interview, applicants have withdrawn the comment and position that Fan et al. expressly states that its polymers are not soluble in high salt solutions, as a close reading of Fan et al fails to identify such express statement. Hence all claims remaining the application are now allowed. Specifically, applicants appreciate the Examiners indication that claim 1-27, 31-35, 37, 39 and 40 are allowed.

—THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK—

Supplemental Response to Final Office Action
U.S. Application No. 09/918,410
Page 10 of 11

003259.00016

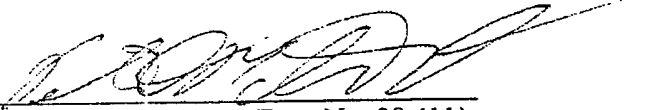
PATENT

VI. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and that this application be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,
Benton et al.

March 15, 2005
Dated


Peter D. McDermott (Reg. No. 29,411)
Attorney for Applicants
Banner & Witcoff, LTD.
28 State St. - 28th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617.720.9600
Fax: 617.720.9601